

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1402
27 May 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council, in first of three consecutive meetings this evening, decides that, with effect from mid-June, those costs of UNFICYP that are not covered by voluntary contributions should be financed by assessed contributions by Member States.
- + Security Council authorizes enlargement of United Nations Mission in El Salvador to include Electoral Component for spring 1994 elections; extends mandate until end of November, 1993, and urges Government and FMLN to comply with Peace Accord.
- + Further two-month interim extension of United Nations Angola Verification Mission recommended by Secretary-General; stresses functions of good offices and mediation until cease-fire is restored; Special Representative says talks in Abidjan were not suspended last week but "interrupted".
- + Security Council approves work of Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission; reaffirms that demarcation decisions are final and demands that Iraq and Kuwait respect boundary.
- + Secretary-General asks for 2,650 additional troops and 100 military observers to enable UNPROFOR to monitor cease-fire in Croatia as well as strengthening of Force in Sarajevo at cost of \$91.2 million for six-month period.
- + Special Envoy for Haiti says only negotiations and stronger sanctions will solve country's political crisis; warns that sanctions alone will not lead to return of constitutional government.
- + War Crimes Commission decides to send team to investigate mass killing committed in Bosnian areas of Ahmici/Vitez area in April.
- + General Assembly asked to include on its agenda new items on financing of International war crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and election of judges to that body; to consider admission of Eritrea and Monaco tomorrow morning.

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For information media--not an official record

+ "Global 500" environmental awards to be given by United Nations Environment Programme in Beijing.

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The Security Council has decided that, with effect from the next extension of UNFICYP's mandate on 15 June, 1993, those costs of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) that are not covered by voluntary contributions should be treated as expenses of the Organization to be financed by assessed contributions by Member States. At the same time, the Council called on States to continue funding peace-keeping operations through voluntary contributions.

The Council took that action, at the first of three consecutive meetings this evening, by adopting resolution 831 (1993) by a vote of 14 in favour and one abstention (Pakistan).

Under the resolution, the Council also decided that the Force should be restructured as a first step, as proposed in the Secretary-General's report. The Council will conduct a comprehensive reassessment in December 1993 when UNFICYP's mandate comes up for consideration again. The Council asked the Secretary-General to submit a report one month before that reassessment, to cover all aspects of the situation, including confidence-building measures, progress in political negotiations and possible progressive steps towards an observer force.

An earlier proposal to shift the financing of UNFICYP entirely from voluntary to mandatory contributions was defeated in the Security Council on 11 May when the Russian Federation cast a veto against a draft resolution sponsored by the United Kingdom. That was the first time in nearly three years that a Permanent Member of the Council used its veto right.

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In a second meeting this evening, the Security Council decided to enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) to include an Electoral Component with 900 observers to monitor and verify the general elections in that country next March. The Council also extended the enlarged mandate of ONUSAL until 30 November, 1993, and asked the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to prepare for the elections.

The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 832 (1993), under which it also urged the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) to respect and implement fully all the commitments they assumed under the Peace Accords. Those commitments include, inter alia, the transfer of lands, the reinsertion into civilian society of ex-combatants and war wounded, the deployment of the National Civil Police and the phasing out of the National Police, and the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission on the purification of the Armed Forces and the Commission on the Truth.

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The Council asked the parties to exercise utmost moderation and restraint, especially in the former zones of conflict, in order to promote the process of national reconciliation.

In an addendum to his report to the Council on the situation in El Salvador, dated 24 May, the Secretary-General said the cost for the expansion of ONUSAL would amount to an additional \$7 million for an 11 month-period from 1 June 1993 to 30 April 1994. He proposed that, should the Council accept his recommendation, the additional cost be considered an expense to the Organization to be borne by Member States.

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The breakdown of the talks in Abidjan last Friday between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), "marked a major and tragic setback to the peace process" in that country, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said in a new report. A decision was now needed on the United Nations future role in Angola, he added.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 25 May, the Secretary-General recommended a further interim extension of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for two months, with a reduced mandate. The Mission would provide good offices and mediation with the goal of restoring the cease-fire. It might later be strengthened if the military and political situation improved.

In view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation, the Secretary-General asked for increased resources in support of the Emergency Humanitarian Programme that was put into effect on 1 May, 1993. He stressed the need to ensure the security of the relief personnel and urged President dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi to respond positively to humanitarian efforts in various parts of Angola.

At a press conference at Headquarters today, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret J. Anstee, told correspondents that the talks in Abidjan had not been suspended but "interrupted" and she hoped the two sides would get together again. Unfortunately, she said, fighting had escalated since the talks, and the humanitarian situation had worsened. According to estimates by the World Food Programme (WFP), nearly 2 million people were suffering severe hardship.

Miss Anstee said that the six weeks of negotiations which broke off in Abidjan last week had "already made tremendous progress". A detailed draft protocol and a memorandum had been drawn up covering the immediate arrangements for a cease-fire and the implementation of numerous other measures. The main point over which the talks had stumbled was UNITA's refusal to withdraw its troops from towns occupied since the resumption of hostilities in exchange for political concessions by the Government, she said.

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At a third meeting of the Council this evening, the Security Council approved the report of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, dated 20 May, and reaffirmed that its decisions regarding the demarcation of the boundary were final. The Council demanded that Iraq and Kuwait respect the boundary, as demarcated by the Commission, and reaffirmed that it would guarantee the inviolability of the boundary and take all necessary measures to that end. It took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 833 (1993).

The Council reaffirmed resolution 687 (1991), which was the basis for the cease-fire after the Gulf War, and reminded Iraq of its obligations under it and other resolutions adopted under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter. The Council recalled that the Commission had not reallocated territory between Iraq and Kuwait, but had simply carried out the technical task necessary to demarcate, for the first time, the coordinates of the boundary reaffirmed in the 1963 Agreed Minutes signed by both countries.

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To keep the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia beyond 30 June and give it new responsibilities, as earlier proposed by the Secretary-General, would require 2,650 additional troops and 100 additional military observers, according to an addendum to his report, dated 25 May. UNPROFOR's new responsibilities in Croatia would be to monitor the cease-fire between the Croatian side and the local Serb militia. The proposed enhancement, which also includes a strengthening of UNPROFOR in Sarajevo, would cost \$91.2 million for six months. The combined monthly cost thereafter would be approximately \$9.7 million.

If the Security Council should decide to approve the enlargement of UNPROFOR's mandate, the addendum said, the cost should be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States.

The Secretary-General had in an earlier report, dated 15 May, presented three options for UNPROFOR's future role in Croatia. The first choice was to withdraw UNPROFOR from the region which, the report said, would almost certainly result in a resumption of hostilities. The second possibility was to allow UNPROFOR to use force in order to exact compliance from the Serbs -- an option which was termed as too risky by the Secretary-General. He proposed as a third choice to leave UNPROFOR in place with a limited enhancement of its military capacity.

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The political crisis in Haiti will only be solved through a combination of negotiations and stronger international sanctions against the country, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caupito, said today. He suggested that those sanctions might be applied by the Organization of American States (OAS), but warned that sanctions alone would not bring about the return of constitutional government to Haiti.

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Mr. Caputo told correspondents that he had seen no willingness on the part of the de facto authorities in Haiti to reach a political solution to the crisis. "I am not going to convince the military just with good reasons, with arguments. We need a clear position in the international community", he said.

Any solution had to be durable, and the atmosphere of violence and fear in Haiti had to be overcome, the Special Envoy stressed. A political agreement would not work without guarantees of a peaceful transition of power.

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The Commission of Experts set up to examine breaches of humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia has decided to send a team to Abmici/Vitez, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to investigate mass killings committed there in April. The Commission took that decision at its fifth session in Geneva on 24 and 25 May.

Following the Council's decision on Tuesday to create an International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Commission decided to speed up in-depth investigations of mass killings and destruction of property, treatment of prisoners and detainees, systematic sexual assaults and "ethnic cleansing".

The Commission will hold its sixth session in Geneva on 13 and 14 July.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked for the inclusion of additional items on the General Assembly's agenda dealing with the financing of the International war crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the election of judges to that body. He asked that the issue of financing be allocated to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) and that the election of judges be considered directly in plenary meetings.

In a separate development, it was announced today that following the General Assembly's admission tomorrow of Eritrea and Monaco to United Nations Membership, flag-raising ceremony will take place for those two countries.

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Thirty-nine environmentalists will be given the Global 500 Award of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during World Environment Day celebrations in Beijing, China, on 5 June 1993. The Awards will be presented by UNEP Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

This year, TIME Magazine will receive an Award for its coverage of environmental issues, and Tengtou village in China will be honoured as a model of ecological balance. There will also be a special Award for youth.

The Global 500 Awards are given every year to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding efforts to protect the environment. The criteria for the Awards are courage, initiative and dedication to the

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cause of the environment. Five hundred people have been honoured with Awards since 1987, including French marine explorer Jacques Cousteau, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and Chico Mendes, the Brazilian rubber tapper who was murdered while trying to save the Amazon forest.

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